**Worship from Home**

**First Congregational Church of Blue Hill, UCC**

**All Saints’ Sunday November 3, 2024**

Prelude *“Siciliana from Concerto Grosso #8”* G.F. Handel

Welcome & Announcements

Introit

Call to Worship

**One:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**Many: And also with you.**

**One:** Come, let us praise the Lord!

**Many: Let us shout our songs of thanksgiving to Almighty God!**

**One:** For God has done wonderful things for us.

**Many: God’s love and blessings have been showered upon us.**

**One:** Come, let us praise the Lord!

**All: Let us sing songs of great joy to God. AMEN.**

\*Hymn #299 NCH *“For All the Saints”*

For all the saints who from their labors rest, who to the world their steadfast faith confessed,
your name, O Jesus, be forever blest. Alleluia! Alleluia!

You were their rock, their refuge, and their might;

You, Christ, the hope that put their fears to flight;
mid gloom and doubt, you were their one true light. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Still may your people, faithful, true and bold, live as the saints who nobly fought of old
and share with them a glorious crown of gold. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Ringed by this cloud of witnesses divine, we feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
yet in your love our faithful lives entwine. Alleluia! Alleluia!

And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long, steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
then hearts are brave again and faith grows strong. Alleluia! Alleluia!

**PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION**

**Almighty God, your people of all the ages live and praise you without ceasing. In our communion with you, we have communion with generations past and generations yet unborn. Before your throne we are one with a great multitude which no one could number, and in praising you we join with those from every nation.**

**Even as we feel our unity with other Christians, Lord, we know that often we have believed that the greatest commandment is our love for ourselves solely. We have not heard the cries of those in need; we have turned our backs on opportunities to serve you by serving others. Many times we have thought only of our own wants and desires and ignored the needs of others. Help us to truly understand the commandment to love you with all our heart, soul, strength, and mind. Let us care for our neighbors both far and near, so that we may truly be one in the Spirit of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

 **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Psalm 24, p. 634 NCH Psalm 24

A Reading from The Gospels John 11:32-45

A Reading from the New Testament Revelation 21:1-6

Sermon *“A Holy City* Pastor Lisa

\*Hymn #613 NCH *“O Holy City, Seen of John”*

O Holy City, seen of John, where Christ, the Lamb, does reign,
Within whose four-square walls shall come no night, nor need, nor pain,
And where the tears are wiped from eyes that shall not weep again.

O shame to us who rest content while lust and greed for gain
in street and shop and tenement wring gold from human pain,
And bitter lips in blind despair cry, "Christ has died in vain."

Give us, O God, the strength to build the City that has stayed
Too long a dream, whose laws are love, whose ways, are your own ways,
And where the sun that blazes is your grace for all our days.

Already in the mind of God that City is prepared:
Oh, how its splendor challenges the souls that greatly dare:
Yes, bids us seize the whole of life and build its glory there.

Prayers of the People *(sharing of joys and concerns)*

The Lord's Prayer *(debts and debtors)*

All Saints’ Day Remembrance of Our Loved Ones

Invitation to Give

Offertory

Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below. Praise God above, you heavenly hosts: Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen**

Prayer of Dedication (From David S. Bell)

**O God, you call us to love you with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. We seek to focus on you as our highest priority. Help us to make lifestyle decisions based on your commandments. We, your kin-dom-seekers, offer you our money as a means of placing you first in our lives. May our gifts provide ministries of love and compassion to our neighbors. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

**THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION**

INVITATION

CONSECRATION

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP (*“Care Selve (Beloved Woodland)” from Clair and Paul)*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**Thank you, O Christ, for this feast of life. We are fed by your love; we are strengthened by your life. We are sent forth into this world to live into the visions God has laid on our hearts. We are now commissioned to feed as we have been fed, forgive as we have been forgiven, love as we have been loved. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

\*Hymn #576 NCH *“For the Healing of the Nations”*

For the healing of the nations, God, we pray with one accord;
for a just and equal sharing of the things that earth affords;
To a life of love in action help us rise and pledge our word,
help us rise and pledge our word.

Lead us forward into freedom; from despair your world release,
that, redeemed from war and hatred, all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness fear will die and hope increase,
fear will die and hope increase.

All that kills abundant living, let it from the earth be banned;
pride of status, race, or schooling, dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice may we hallow life's brief span,
may we hallow life's brief span.

You, Creator God, have written your great name on humankind;
for our growing in your likeness bring the life of Christ to mind,
that by our response and service earth its destiny may find,
earth its destiny may find.

Benediction

Postlude *“Allegro from Concerto Grosso #8”* G.F. Handel